

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants have carefully considered the Final Office Action mailed December 15, 2004. After such consideration, independent Claims 9 and 29 have been amended to further clarify the structure of the present invention and specifically the structure of the support walls.. As such, Claims 9-54 remain in the case with none of the claims being allowed.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner again rejected Claims 9 and 29 of the application under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,801,164 to Mosch. The Examiner pointed out that Mosch (Fig. 4) could be considered to have "support walls" where its upper housing and lower housing sections meet. The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his use of Figures directly in the Office Action. The Figures were particularly helpful to the Applicant in distinguishing its invention over the Mosch reference. The foregoing amendments to the claims are submitted to clarify and further distinguish the invention of Claims 9 and 29 over the Mosch reference.

Specifically, the Mosch reference does not disclose a window latch comprising, in combination with other claimed elements, a housing including a support wall extending across the center of the housing and extending downward to engage the surface of the window sash to provide support for the housing. As best seen in Mosch (see e.g. Fig. 2), the edges formed by the intersection of the upper and lower portions of its housing do not extend downward to engage the surface of the window sash. In the present invention, such a construction enables use of lightweight, durable materials, as explained in detail in the original application at Page 11, line 9 to Page 13, line 23, and elsewhere. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent Claims 9 and 29, as amended, and their dependents are allowable in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims.

Thus, Applicant submits that by this amendment he has placed the case in condition for immediate allowance and such action is respectfully requested. However, if any issue remains

unresolved, Applicant would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward W. Rilee
Registration No. 31,869
MacCord Mason PLLC
P. O. Box 2974
Greensboro, NC 27402
(336) 273-4422

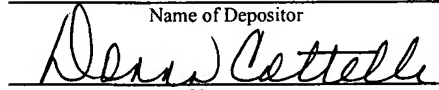
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